

**Press Release
October 6, 2011**



**Embassy of the United States of America
100 Duke & Young Streets, Kingston, Georgetown, Guyana**

Ambassador Hardt Meets with International Visitors

GEORGETOWN – On October 5, Ambassador Brent Hardt met with two Guyanese women leaders who will be going to the United States in mid-October to participate in International Visitor programs – one on Breast Cancer Awareness and Outreach and the other on Women's Leadership and Political Participation. Ambassador Hardt emphasized that the State Department considers foreign policy issues and activities relating to the political, economic, and social advancement of women a priority. Mignon Bowen and Simone Morris-Ramlall shared information about their respective organizations, as well as their efforts to empower women in Guyana.

Mignon Bowen will participate in the State Department's Multi-Regional Program on Breast Cancer Awareness and Outreach from October 10 to 28, 2011. This program will provide opportunities for 30 or more participants to interact with U.S. healthcare practitioners and participate in activities during October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the United States. The group will discuss international partnerships in breast cancer awareness, public health campaigns, and advocacy initiatives by NGOs and national associations. The program will also highlight the latest scientific research in breast cancer prevention and treatment. Mignon Bowen is the Chairperson of the Avon Community Help Fund, an organization established in 2005 to implement small scale community-based projects for breast cancer awareness and education. Ms. Bowen is responsible for preparing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the Fund's Yearly Work Plan and Breast Cancer Awareness Month Activities. She is the primary breast cancer awareness advocate liaising with the Ministry of Health and teaches breast self-examination as a cost-free method of early diagnosis. Ms. Bowen is currently working to establish a breast cancer support center for newly diagnosed patients, recovering survivors, and family members.

Simone Morris-Ramlall will be involved with the State Department's Women's Leadership and Political Participation Voluntary Visitor's Program, from October 10 to 19, 2011. In this ten-day, Sub-Regional Project for the Caribbean, participants will visit the United States to examine how international, national, and local organizations serve, protect, and empower women in all facets of daily life, from the home front to community, civic, and political participation. Simone Morris-Ramlall works at the

Guyana Legal Aid Clinic, providing free legal counseling and services to clients, the majority of whom are underprivileged women who do not have a means of speaking for or representing themselves. She also volunteers as Vice President of the Guyana Association of Women Lawyers, hosting projects that support, educate, and empower women.

The International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) is the flagship professional exchange program of the Department of State, which annually brings to the United States approximately 5,000 foreign nationals from all over the world to meet and confer with their professional counterparts and to experience America firsthand. The visitors are current or potential leaders in government, politics, the media, education, the arts, business and other fields. Among the thousands of distinguished individuals who have participated in the IVLP since its inception almost seven decades ago, are more than 290 current and former Chiefs of State and Heads of Government, 2,000 cabinet-level ministers, and many, many other distinguished leaders from the public and private sectors. Over 100 Guyanese nationals have participated in a range of IVLPs over the years.

The Voluntary Visitor (Volvis) Program offers individuals selected by U.S. embassies the opportunity to meet and confer with their professional counterparts throughout the United States in order to obtain a broader view of American culture, society, and politics. The Volvis program generally lasts from 2 to 14 days.

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